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Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-10 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 /090 W
---------- 018902
R 201728Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2851
INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 4385

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ASECGN VE
SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING-GOV REAFFIRMS HARD
LINE POSITION

1. INTERIOR MINISTER OCTAVIO LEPAGE REITERATED APRIL 19 THE GOV'S OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KIDNAPPERS OF U.S. INDUSTRIALIST WILLIAM NIEHOUS AND TO PAYMENT OF A RANSOM FOR NIEHOUS' RELEASE. ASKED ABOUT A REPORTED ATTACK OVER THE EASTERN WEEKEND BY VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES ON A GUERRILLA CAMP IN THE BORDER AREA
OF ANZOATEGUI AND MONAGAS STATES, ELPAGE REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AND THE NIEHOUS CASE, NOTING THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SECURITY FORCES RECOVERED A CACHE OF ARMS AND SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE AT A CAMP WHERE THEY SPECULATE NIEHOUS MAY HAVE BEEN HELD EARLIER.
THE CAMP IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES EAST OF CARACAS AND IS IN A MOUNTAINOUS REGION.

2. AGAIN USING CARDINAL QUINTERO AS AN INTERMEDIARY, NIEHOUS' CAPTORS SENT ANOTHER MESSAGE TO MRS. DONNA NIEHOUS ON APRIL 15. THE MESSAGE, WHICH MRS. NEIHOUS READ IN THE

PRESENCE OF TWO OWNENS-ILLINOIS EXECUTIVES, REITERATED THE
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KIDNAPPERS' EARLIER DEMANDS THAT THEIR COMMUNIQUES OF FEBRUARY 28 AND APRIL 10 BE PUBLISHED LOCALLY. POLICE OFFICIALS TOLD

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THE PRESS THAT THE MESSAGE CONTAINED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
AMOUNT OF RANSOM, WHICH HAS NOW RISEN TO AN ESTIMATED BS.
15 MILLION (ABOUT $3.5 MILLION).

3. ON APRIL 17 CARACAS POLICE ARRESTED A MAN TELEPHONING
THE NIEHOUS RESIDENCE FROM A DOWNTOWN TELEPHONE. SINCE THEN
THREE OTHER PERSONS MAKING SIMILAR CALLS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.
ALL ARE BEING QUESTIONED BY THE AUTHORITIES.
SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE, US, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)
To: STATE
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